

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing an absorbent dryformed paper web having a plurality of layers, with an optional center layer containing a superabsorbent material comprising:

- a. laying a web of cellulose fibers, admixed with thermobonding fibers, onto a forming wire, wherein the thermobonding fibers comprise about 3 - 25 wt% of the total fiber content, wherein the thermobonding fibers are applied such that there is a gradual increase in fiber concentration nearer the surface of product;
- b. applying a binder to form binder layers on the top surface and bottom surface of the web of cellulose fibers, wherein the amount of dry matter in the binder is from about 0.5 - 15 wt% and the amount of dry matter applied to the surface of the web is from about 0.5 - 20 g. of dry matter per square meter of web surface; and

c. heating the web to a temperature sufficient to melt the thermobonding fibers and increase the tensile strength of the finished product.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the amount of dry matter in the binder is from about 0.5 - 15 wt%.

3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder is applied in an amount of about 0.5 - 10 grams dry matter per square meter of web surface.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder is an aqueous binder.

Claims 5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder contains pigments admixed therewith.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2 wherein said web comprises about 10 - 25 wt% thermobonding fibers and the amount of binder applied to the surface of the web is about 0.5 - 10 grams per square meter of web surface.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2 wherein said web comprises about 3 - 7 wt% of

thermobonding fibers and the amount of binder applied to the surface of the web is about 5 - 20 grams per square meter of web surface.

Claim 10-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing an absorbent dryformed paper web having a plurality of layers, comprising:

- a. laying a web of cellulose fiber, admixed with thermobonding fibers, onto a forming wire, wherein the thermobonding fibers comprise about 3-25 wt% of the total fiber content, wherein the thermobonding fibers are applied such that there is a gradual increase in the fiber concentration nearer the surface of the product;
- b. applying a binder to the top surface and to the bottom surface of the web of cellulose fibers to form a binder layer on the top surface and on the bottom surface of the web of cellulose fibers, wherein the amount of dry matter in the binder is from about 0.5-15 wt% and the amount of dry matter applied to the surface of the web is from about 0.5-20 g of dry matter per square meter of web surface; and

c. heating the web to a temperature sufficient to melt the thermobonding fibers to provide sealing of dusting fibers under the surface of the binder and increase the tensile strength of the fiber product.

24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 23 wherein the web of cellulose fibers contains a super-absorbent material.

25. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 23 wherein the binder is applied as a foam.